(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and whether any other institution will be asked to cater on a focused manner for funding hotel construction, etc. in the country;

(d) whether it is a fact that smaller entrepreneurs cannot get funds from the bank; and

(e) what steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise

(c) Under the Scheme "Incentives to Accommodation Infrastructure", Tourism Finance Corporation of India (TFCI) Industrial Finance Corporation of India (IFCI), IDBI, ICICI, State Financial Corporations, State Industrial Development Corporations and the Scheduled Banks have been designated to grant loans to the hoteliers/entrepreneurs for construction of hotels in the budget category i.e. one-star to three-star and Heritage Basic category to avail of capital subsidy from the Department of Tourism, Government of India.

(d) and (e) All entrepreneurs including smaller ones are eligible to get loan from the designated financial institutions and Scheduled Banks under the above said Scheme.

Promotion of Tourism

†2211. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether any new scheme has been formulated by Government for the promotion of tourism;

(b) if so, the amount provided in the Budget on the implementation of the said scheme; and

(c) the effective steps being taken by Government for proper implementation of these schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) The schemes of IX Plan for

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

development of promotion of tourism have been restructured and new schemes like Assistance for Large Revenue Generating Projects, Revival of Tourism in Jammu & Kashmir have been introduced during the X Plan

(b) Provision of Rs.500 crores has been made in Budget Estimates for 2004-05 for all the ongoing and new plan schemes of Ministry of Tourism.

(c) Tourism projects are identified carefully and reviewed regularly for proper implementation

Development of religious places for tourism purposes

2212 SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH
SHRI DATTA MEGHE

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state.

(a) whether it is a fact that religious places attract most of the tourists in India;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to take a comprehensive plan to develop those cultural and religious places which can be helpful in boosting the tourism industry;

(c) if so, the details thereof,

(d) the amount earmarked for the purpose,

(e) the names of States and the religious places to be developed for attracting tourists; and

(f) by when these religious places are likely to be developed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY) (a) Religious places in the country do attract a large number of pilgrims/tourists

(b) to (f) Development of tourist/pilgrim places is primarily undertaken by the State Governments/U T Administrations However, the Ministry of Tourism also provides financial assistance for tourism projects identified in consultation with them. The process of identification of projects to be taken up during the current financial year is in progress in consultation with State Governments/U T. Administrations